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12 March 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Deputy Secretary of Defense on the NRO

1. In accordance with an appointment which the Director had made, I called on Mr. Vance in his office at 1500 this afternoon. I gave him the original charts prepared by DDS&T, consisting of a basic organization chart reflecting components of DOD and CIA engaged in national reconnaissance, and two overlays showing (a) how these components interrelate in the control of satellite operations today, and (b) organizational proposals for the control of satellite operations in the future. I pointed out some of the complexities involved in the overlays and said that I had brought a chart showing the conceptual aspects of the proposed organization which is much simpler and which I thought he might find useful. He said that these charts would be very helpful in briefing the Secretary of Defense, with whom he had already had some preliminary discussions.

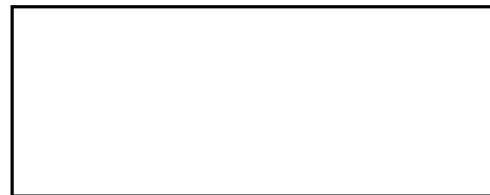
2. He then read the memorandum which we had prepared to expand on paragraph 5 of the memorandum of 6 March which General Carter and I had left with him the previous week.

3. Mr. Vance expressed particular interest in the paragraphs of this memorandum which relate to research and development. He noted that the word "systems" is used throughout the memorandum and wanted to know how CIA defines the word "systems." He wanted to know whether this was confined to "payloads" or whether it was intended to include boosters and other equipment involved in satellite launchings. I said that obviously payloads had to be designed with particular boosters in mind, but that CIA had no intention of assuming

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NRO review(s)


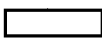
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responsibility for the actual development of anything other than the "payload." I said that our understanding was that if the Executive Committee approved the development of a system, for example  responsibility could then be assigned to the Agency to work with the contractors on the development of a prototype through the testing state. Once the development of the payload reaches the production stage the arrangement contemplates assignment of CIA representatives to the West Coast who would work with contractors (ITEK, General Electric,  etc.) on the assembly of the payload (camera, space vehicle, re-entry vehicle and buckets). Once assembled and checked out, the payload would be delivered to the authority responsible for the assembly of the entire space launching unit. At this point the contractors interested in the payload would continue to work, under the direction of the component responsible for the launch (presumably General Greer), as part of the team responsible for the assembly of the total unit.

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4. Mr. Vance seemed to feel that this was, prima facie at least, a not unreasonable arrangement. He asked whether we would have any objection to having Dr. Fubini look at the memorandum and charts. I said there would be no objection. He stated he did not propose to consult Dr. McMillan on the matter.

5. I advised Mr. Vance of my proposed trip to ITEK on Monday.

/s/ John A. Bross

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D/DCI/NIPE

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